(iv) Launch of the foodgrains based on Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY).

(v) Allocation of foodgrains under the Food for Work and the Special Component of the SGRY Programme.

(vi) Encouragement to Exports.

(d) and (e) Wheat and rice are being supplied to BPL (including AAY) families at highly subsidized rates at less than 50% of the economic cost. The rate of issue to AAY families is Rs. 3/- per kg. for rice and Rs. 2/- per kg. for wheat. The level of issue of foodgrains has been increased to 35 kg. for BPL and AAY families *w.e.f.* 01.04.2002.

Higher value for buffer stock of sugar

977. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sugar industry is demanding higher value for its buffer stock than the actual open market price;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) No such representation has been received by this Ministry.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Marketing of sub-standard products

978. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Top brands pass on sub-standard soaps says study", which appeared in the "Deccan Chronicle" dated the 27th January, 2003;

(b) if so, what are Government's comments on the study; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the manufacturers for marketing of sub-standard products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Voluntary Organization in Interest of Consumer Education (VOICE) in its study on the identical subject have, *inter-alia* commented on 12 brands of toilet soaps with regard to ingredients, weight, total fat contents and lather they generate apparently with a view to enlighten the consumers.

(c) Soaps are not covered under the Mandatory Certification Scheme of the Bureau of Indian Standards Certification Mark for manufacturing soaps which could ensure their conformity to the quality specifications prescribed in the relevant Indian Standards. Besides, none of the brands reported in the study are ISI marked.

Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources

979. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the mandate as well as the mode of formation of Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources and its utilization;

(b) the amount accrued in the pool since its inception alongwith the breakup of contribution by each Ministry, year wise;

(c) the percentage of budgetary allocation and utilization made in NER during last three years, Ministry-wise; and

(d) the Ministries which have not complied with the obligation to contribute towards the pool as well as those making only partial contribution?

THE MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (d) Government of India decided, in principle, to pool the unspent amounts from 10% of